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## Of interest to arts educators

**Preparing Students for the Next America:** The Arts Education Partnership (AEP) announces their new research bulletin on the benefits of arts education for all students titled *Preparing Students for the Next America: The Benefits of an Arts Education*.

Using their research center, ArtsEdSearch.org, AEP presents a short composition on how the arts support achievement in school, strengthen skills in work fields, and supplement the lives of people within communities. Visit [tinyurl.com/lwsc5eg](http://tinyurl.com/lwsc5eg).

**Ovation's Arts Ed Toolkit:** Based on two arts documentaries shown on Ovation TV, "Baroque! From St. Peter's to St. Paul's" and "Manet: The Man Who Invented Modern Art," Ovation has partnered with Cable in the Classroom and the New York City Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects to provide teachers and their classrooms with Arts Ed Toolkits, featuring free standards-based lessons and historical images. Go to [ovationtv.com/educators](http://ovationtv.com/educators).

## ARTS EDUCATION

### Bravo! offers after-school theatre classes

The University of Montana's School of Theatre and Dance recently launched a new community outreach program, Bravo! Youth Theatre. Directed and implemented by Teresa Waldorf, this new after-school theatre program for kids begins in September and runs for two sessions, ending in mid-April 2014.

Enrolled students will engage in Creative Dramatics, improvisation, beginning-level acting instruction, story dramatization, musical theatre, movement and short scene work. "The number-one goal is to have fun and play while taking a walk in someone else's shoes," says Waldorf.

Students will also have ample opportunity to develop their imaginations, think independently, cooperate, build social awareness, and gain self-confidence.

Waldorf earned her MFA in acting and directing in 1992 from The University of Montana. She is presently the educational outreach coordinator for Montana Repertory



Teresa Waldorf

Theatre and an adjunct assistant professor for the UM School of Theatre and Dance, where she teaches elementary education majors how to use Creative Drama to teach any subject.

Waldorf ran and directed her own "Acting Lessons for Active Kids" after-school program from 1996-2004; is the creator

and director of her own Summer Theatre Day Camp; and can frequently be seen performing on local stages.

Assisting her will be MFA acting candidate Kelly Bouma.

Acting classes are available to children from kindergarten to middle-school age, 4-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday (depending on grade level), and will meet in the Bravo! Acting Studio on campus (McGill 125). Showcase performances, held in the PARTV Building's Montana or Masquer Theatres, will highlight each session's end.

For more information, call 406-243-2854 or email [teresa.waldorf@umontana.edu](mailto:teresa.waldorf@umontana.edu).



Tyler Murphy offers painting instruction to student at Carbon County Arts Guild in Red Lodge.

## Art outreach program comes to Carbon County

This past school year, the kids of Carbon County have gotten an added boost to their arts curriculum, thanks to a grant from the Sidney Frank Foundation and the Carbon County Arts Guild in Red Lodge.

The Arts Guild's executive director, Deborah Kline Sonderman, created the beginnings of an art outreach program with a multi-year grant from the Frank Foundation in 2011. "Our program began last school year with two of our artists visiting schools to teach painting," she says. "This year, we expanded the number of schools involved, increased the amount of time our teachers were spending in the classroom, and offered a bit more variety of art topics."

Kline Sonderman went on to say that she has new ideas for next year and hopes the program eventually will evolve into a more formal "art on wheels" program, complete with a van that travels throughout the county, art supplies and a full-time teacher.

This year's program was led by two professional artists, Tom McCoy from Clark, WY, and Tyler Murphy from Billings. McCoy taught painting once a week at the schools in Belfry, Fromberg and Roberts, and students had the chance to work in acrylics.

Murphy gave full-day workshops at the Arts Guild to more serious art students, giving them more feedback on their work and the opportunity to learn what it takes to create a completed work of art, and led weeklong summer art programs.

Kline Sonderman said the outreach art program will continue this coming school year.

## MSIP launches 10-week school tour

Montana Shakespeare in the Schools celebrates its 21st season by taking Shakespeare's boisterous comedy, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" to nearly 12,000 students in communities throughout Montana and Wyoming as a part of its annual fall tour, which begins Oct. 11.

The 10-week tour is the first of two educational outreach programs being offered by Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSIP), which is based at Montana State University, during this academic

year. The fall tour concludes in late December, and "Montana Shakes!," a tour designed specifically for elementary school children, will tour in the spring of 2014.



Shakespeare in the Schools company manager Michael Gonring (right) plays the lovable clown, Launce, in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona."

(Photo by Winslow Studio)

In order to accommodate schools' scheduling needs, productions are trimmed to 75 minutes. There will also be workshops on relevant themes in the play, Shakespearean verse and stage combat.

SIS has tapped Kevin Asselin, associate professor of acting and movement for Oklahoma City University, to direct this season's production. MSIP's resident designer Tom Watson is again on board to create a dynamic traveling set, and costume designer Claudia Boddy returns for her fourth season with SIS.

Michael Gonring, also a beloved alumni of all three MSIP programs, is company manager.

For more details, visit [shakespeareintheparks.org](http://shakespeareintheparks.org) or call 406-994-3303.

## Collaborative program pairs Indian art with writing

The Missoula Art Museum received a collaborative grant last fall to promote Indian Education for All, sponsored by the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Historical Society. The grant is intended to support the efforts of museums in promoting American Indian education in the schools through the use of unique collections connected to Montana's indigenous population.

The project is proving a perfect match for MAM's Contemporary American Indian Art Collection and fourth grade students at Lowell, Franklin, and Hawthorne schools. Renée Taaffe, MAM education curator, selected three works from MAM's Contemporary American Indian Art Collection to share with the fourth grade classes.

The contemporary art works by artists Corwin Clairmont and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith address contemporary concerns. Clairmont's work references important environmental issues facing the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Quick-to-See Smith's work speaks to the continuity of native culture.

As a means of making the art readily accessible to the fourth grade classes, MAM has joined forces with the Missoula Writing Collaborative (MWC), an organization that brings poetry into Missoula's classrooms and was already actively working with fourth grade classes.

MWC, MAM, and the teachers recognized that the expressive and expansive language of poetry is an exceptional tool to use exploring the multiple layers of meaning in a work of art and, in this case, bringing a deeper understanding to the contemporary Native American experience.

The MWC poets met with the students in their classrooms and helped them write a series of poems about each work.

As students worked through the writing process, the poets pushed them to dig deeper with their language to fully express what they perceived and felt. These poems were collected and compiled in a small book for students, parents and teachers.

This investigation continued as students viewed a short film, produced by the grant, featuring artist Corwin Clairmont. This



"Buffalo Thinking of Ancestors" by Corwin Clairmont was among four works that fourth grade classes used as springboards for poems.

prepared them for the final portion of the program where they viewed the artworks at MAM and met and worked with the artist in April.

An exhibit, "Indian Education for All," is on display July 12-Sept. 22, and showcases the artworks made by the students during their time with Clairmont.

This project lays the groundwork for future projects with MAM's contemporary American Indian art and artists and with Missoula schools.

"MAM looks forward to projects that

support knowledge and understanding built through the shared creative expressions of Montana's native peoples and young students," said Taaffe.

For more information, visit [www.missoulaartmuseum.org](http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org).